

5-2018

## School of Music Faculty Newsletter, May 2018

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# Illinois State University School of Music

Faculty/Staff Newsletter • May 2018 • Volume 7, No. 8

## Faculty Accomplishments and News (in alphabetical order):

**David Collier** finished the spring semester performing with the Heartland Festival Orchestra on April 21 and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra on April 28 and 29. On April 15, David and colleague **Ben Stiers** led the ISU Percussion Ensemble in their annual spring concert. This program welcomed as guests the Normal Community West High School Percussion Ensemble to the CPA stage. The NCWHS ensemble performed two works on their own and joined with the ISU Percussion Ensemble for a performance of “a whispering...” by William Duckworth. David reports that School of Music alumna **Ksenija Komljenovic** (MM '14) was the guest soloist with the Arkansas Tech University Symphonic Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Dan Belongia on April 29. Ksenija performed *Sideman* for solo percussion and wind ensemble by Mason Bates.



*The ISU and NCWHS percussion ensembles.*

**Karyl Carlson** adjudicated for IHSA State Choral Contests in Kewanee and Chicago. The Madrigal Singers performed for ISU's INTO familiarization event held at Ewing Manor on April 24. Karyl also graduated as a member of the class of 2018 from the Multicultural Leadership Program on April 28. Karyl reports that **Cristian Larios**, a member of Madrigal Singers and Concert Choir, traveled to Springfield to represent the College of Fine Arts in discussions with Legislators. Cristian and colleagues **Rachel A. Miller** and **Laura Hollingsworth** assisted with the UIC College Prep High School retreat over the weekend of April 27, culminating in their attending the Choral Collage concert.



*The Madrigal Singers with INTO representatives.*

## Upcoming Meetings:

- 5/1/18
  - Faculty @ 11am
- 8/16/18
  - Opening CFA @ 8:30am
  - Opening SOM @ 11am
- 8/21/18
  - MUS 110 Convo @ 11am
  - Curriculum @ 11am
- 8/28/18
  - Curriculum @ 11am
- 8/30/18
  - Advisory @ 11am
- 9/4/18
  - His/Theory/Comp @ 11am
  - Music Education @ 11am
- 9/6/18
  - Curriculum @ 11am
- 9/11/18
  - SFSC @ 11am
- 9/13/18
  - Curriculum @ 11am
- 9/18/18
  - Faculty @ 11am

**Geoffrey Duce** performed Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra in the Tivoli Theater, Chattanooga, TN. As part of the trip, he also taught a masterclass at Lee University in Cleveland, TN. Later in the month, Geoffrey performed a rare song cycle, *The Window*, by Arthur Sullivan, as well as songs by Schubert and MacCunn, in collaboration with **Justin Vickers**, at the Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference at St. Louis University.

**Tim Fredstrom** adjudicated the IHSA High School Choral Contest in Normal and the IGSMA Middle School Choral Contest in Moline in April. In March he conducted the Bloomington-Normal choral ensemble Cantus Novus in their spring concert, *In Joyful Hope*, performing works of Haydn and contemporary choral composers. There are a number of School of Music alumni in this ensemble, including our colleagues **Cindy Ropp** and **Lauren Palmer**. Clarinet major **Brian Zielinski** performed on the concert as well.

**David Gresham** was the special guest at the University of Wyoming Clarinet Day on April 14 in Laramie, Wyoming. David gave a master class to the university students and presented a full recital of contemporary music for clarinet and piano with accompanist John Orfe.



*David Gresham with faculty and performers at Wyoming Clarinet Day.*

**Mark Grizzard** will travel to Riga, Latvia this summer to attend the 9-day Latvian Song Festival and to conduct interviews as part of his doctoral research on composer Pēteris Vasks and the influential amateur choral culture in Latvia. Prior to that trip, he is excited to join **Karyl Carlson** and ISU choral students on a tour of Italy, Austria, and the Czech Republic in May. Mark also completed a new choral work, "How Can I Keep from Singing," a commission from the First Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa; it will be premiered on July 1 as part of the church's 150th anniversary celebration.

**Kevin Hart** & Friends, along with Cassie Hart, Andy Crawford, and Jason Brannon recently performed a "jazz sermon" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Peoria for their annual Jazz Sunday service. Kevin's trio recently played at Baxter's American Grille and has a busy summer ahead. His Vibe Tribe band will also be performing at the Connie Link Amphitheatre, the CEFCU Summer Jazz Series, and the Medici Craft Beer and Jazz Street Fair.

**Phillip Hash** recently conducted clinics with the bands at Greenview Public Schools. He also served as an adjudicator for the Illinois Grade School Music Association State Contest held at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Moline. Phil reports that the 2018 ISU Band Director Workshop will be held on campus Wednesday, July 11, from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30p.m. This event will feature sessions by ISU faculty including:

- **Tony Marinello** - "A Concert Cycle at 30,000 feet: From Selecting Repertoire to Playing the Concert." (Repertoire and Rehearsal Planning).
- **Phillip Hash** - "Measuring Student Growth in the Instrumental Music Classroom." (assessment)
- **Polly Middleton** - "Teaching the Fundamentals."
- **Ben Stiers** - "Expanding Your Color Palette: Getting the Most Out of Accessory Percussion."
- **David Snyder** - "Why doesn't my band sound better?: Ten Common Mistakes Band Directors Make in Rehearsals."
- Roundtable - Music Teacher Evaluation in Illinois: Strategies and Discussion. (Led by P. Hash and D. Snyder)
- **Tom Marko** - "Articulation and Improvisation, the Key Ingredients for a Great Sounding Jazz Band."

Registration is only \$30.00 for directors and \$20.00 for full time graduate and undergraduate students. ISBE continuing education credit is available at no additional charge. Register through the [School of Music Online Store](https://www.isu.edu/school-of-music/online-store). Please direct questions to Phillip Hash ([pmhash@ilstu.edu](mailto:pmhash@ilstu.edu)).

**Lauren Hunt** started off the month of April with a fun solo recital in Kemp Hall in collaboration with pianist **Lu Witzig**. Also in April, she performed as third horn in performances with both the Heartland Festival and Peoria Symphony Orchestras. With the Sonneries Wind Quintet, Lauren and the other ISU woodwind faculty members performed at the National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians. She closed the month with a trip to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she did a guest artist residency, including a master class and recital.



**Bill Koehler** served as a string orchestra judge for the IHSA Organizational Contest on April 13, as well as District 7 Solo and Ensemble contest judge on April 14. On April 10, he also led and performed on an ISU student convocation on improvisation with Christopher Reyman, pianist and Professor of Music at the University of Texas – El Paso. Bill performed his composition entitled “Andalus” at the retirement party for **Barry Blinderman**, University Galleries Director, on April 26 and performed with the Faculty Jazz Quartet on April 5.

**Tony Marinello** was an invited adjudicator and clinician at the Eastern Illinois University Concert Band Festival in early April, where he had the opportunity to work with numerous high school bands. On April 13, he was invited as a concert band and orchestra adjudicator at Harper College for the Festivals of Music contest, where he worked with bands and orchestras from Maryland, Indiana, and Iowa. In advance of this trip, he worked with several high school band programs in the Chicagoland area: Victor J. Andrew High School (**Mark Iwinski**, director of bands and ISU alumnus); Vernon Hills High School (Randy Sundell, director); Mundelein High School (Jerald Shelato, director); and Libertyville High School (Adam Gohr, director). Thanks to Adam Gohr, Tony was able to have dinner with a number of band directors from the Northern Chicago suburbs; he enjoyed meeting and connecting with them! Locally, he was invited to work with the Normal West High School Wind Ensemble (Lisa Preston, director) and the Morton High School Wind Ensemble (Jeff Neavor, director). With the help of countless students and colleagues, the Illinois State University Bands hosted two weekends of concert band performances and clinics on the campus of Illinois State University. The 2018 State of Illinois Concert Band Clinic hosted 22 bands on campus who received feedback and clinics from **Dan Deitrich** (retired and ISU alumnus), **Todd Stalter** (Eureka High School and ISU alumnus), and Brian Covey (Lockport Township High School). On the second weekend, the 2018 State of Illinois Concert Band Festival hosted 20 bands on campus who received feedback from Dick Floyd (retired, State Director of UIL in Texas), Tom Caneva (Ball State University), Don Shupe (retired, Libertyville High School), and composer-in-residence Steven Bryant. The semester closed with incredible concerts by the Illinois State University Symphonic Winds and Wind Symphony in collaboration with composer-in-residence Steven Bryant. Steve spent three days on campus, where he worked with our bands and our

composition students. The Wind Symphony concert on April 28 hosted over 150 visiting high school students. On that final concert, the Wind Symphony collaborated with **Mark Babbitt** as he expertly performed Bryant’s Concerto for Trombone. The concert closed with a performance of Bryant’s indelible “Ecstatic Waters” for wind ensemble and electronics; the performance received effusive praise from the composer.

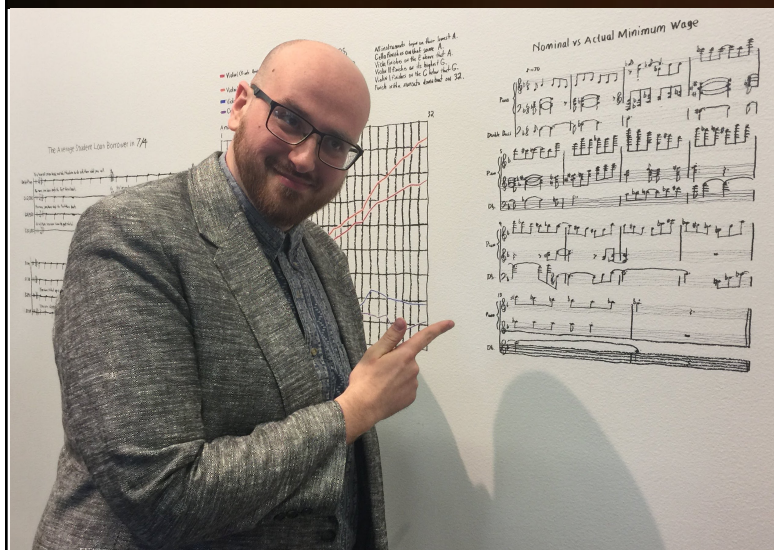


*Tony Marinello, Mark Babbitt, and Steven Bryant*

**Tom Marko** hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Illinois State University Jazz Festival April 13 and 14, his 16<sup>th</sup> year as coordinator for the event. This year was a record breaking year for attendees: thirty-three competing junior high and high school jazz ensembles, with over twenty directors and schools represented. Special guest artist drummer and composer Dennis Mackrel gave outstanding masterclasses and stunning performances with the ISU students. Additionally, he accompanied Jazz Ensemble I on a trip to Peoria for an additional performance for the Central Illinois Jazz Society’s monthly concert series on Sunday, April 15.

**Rose Marshack** reports that **Zach Buckley**, an Arts Technology graduate student, won “Best In Show” at the Student Annual at University Galleries for his piece, “A Good Education (Experiments in Data and Music).” This is significant because music compositions do not normally win visual arts shows. Zach’s work is a collection of three short compositions designed to explore the economic prospects of students over the course of their education. Zach translated graphs and data sets into scores and then recorded three different ensembles performing the music. There is a graphic component to the piece which can be viewed on the wall as one walks into the University Galleries, and a sonic component which is the performance of the piece, heard throughout the Galleries. Music students who participated in the project were: **Kathryn Balk, Eric Gilardon, Brian Urquhart, Rhoda Roberts, Mary Barba, and Erin Murphy.**





Zach Buckley and "A Good Education (Experiments in Data and Music)"

**Joe Matson** organized a lecture-recital on April 5 at Illinois Wesleyan University on eighteenth-century music. He has one more recital scheduled this semester on May 6 at Millikin University in Decatur. This summer, he has been invited to participate in CTLT's Summer Institute Instructional Skills Workshop. Next spring, he has been invited to teach an Advanced Honors Seminar for Presidential Scholars; the course will examine the Florentine Renaissance from a variety of overlapping and intersecting disciplines. On February 27, Joe and his wife, Anne Shelley (Milner Library), welcomed to the world their first baby, Madeline Grace Matson.



Anne, Joe, and Madeline Grace

**Adriana Ransom** performed a baroque recital at the Trinity Lutheran Church Candlelight Concert Series (Peoria) in April. She also spent a day in the Ritenour School District

in St. Louis, working with ISU alumna **Abbi (Cash) Knoche's** middle school students and the district's high school students.

**Carl Schimmel** has received a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. Per the Guggenheim Foundation, these fellowships "are intended for individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts." Congratulations, Carl! Also, his work "Roadshow for Otto" was performed by newEar at the Society of Composers, Inc., Region VI conference at Kansas State University, and **David Gresham** and John Orfe performed his music in Wyoming in April.

**Daniel Schuetz** is performing selections from "Most Happy Fella" on the Prairie Fire Theatre Gala at Illinois Wesleyan University, Saturday, April 28, with Joe Penrod, baritone, Kenneth Prince, tenor, and Sylvia Penrod, piano. Daniel is also singing as a guest-artist at Illinois Wesleyan at 7:00 p.m. on May 11 in a program titled "If music be the food of love!" with Andrew Voelker, tenor and piano, Kenneth Prince, tenor, Jonathan Groebe, baritone, John Fegan, baritone, Blake Miller, baritone, Gaby Rogers, soprano, Iris Leahy, soprano, Joan Schuetz, soprano, and Joe Penrod, baritone. Daniel's former graduate student, **Yichen Li**, just completed his doctoral degree at the University of Illinois. His student **Katherine Cosenza** sang Dorabella in ISU's recent production of *Così fan Tutte*, and has received a scholarship to attend DePaul University for her master's degree studies in vocal performance. Another student, **Chloe Alexander**, is cast as a lead in Starlight Theater's "Jayne Eyre" in Rockford June 13-16 and July 18-22.

**Ben Stiers** hosted the Metamora High School Steel Band for a clinic and performance in Kemp Recital Hall on April 11. He also performed with the Heartland Festival Orchestra (HFO) on April 21. In the coming month, he will perform with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra on their education concerts on May 3-4 and with the HFO on May 26. He will also appear as marimba soloist with the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School band in a performance of Craig Fitzpatrick's "Leap of Faith" on May 6.

**David Snyder** performed with the Peoria Symphony at their student outreach concerts on April 27 and then again on their subscription concert on April 28. He also recently completed teaching an online hybrid course in music appreciation through Lincoln College.

**Rick Valentin** and **Rose Marshack's** new album, *Grand Bargain!* (by their ensemble Poster Children), will be released May 18 on vinyl, cassette, and CD by Lotuspool Records. *Grand Bargain!* was recorded by famed engineer Steve Albini at his studio, Electrical Audio, in Chicago over the past two years. Rick and Rose will tour the east and west coasts of the U.S. performing works from the album this summer.



*The Poster Children in Lego miniature figures.*

**Justin Vickers** and **Geoffrey Duce** recently performed a recital for the national conference of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association, sponsored by Saint Louis University as part of the institution's bicentennial celebrations. Justin and Geoff gave the recital in the historic Cupples House, performing selections from Schubert's "Winterreise" and Hamish MacCunn's extended "I found my mountain lyre again," before a complete performance of Arthur Sullivan's "The Window, or The Song of the Wrens" (the first English song cycle). Vickers looks forward to a full-year sabbatical, during which time he will complete "The Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts: A History of the Britten Years, 1948–1976" for The Boydell Press in anticipation of the 75th Anniversary of the Aldeburgh Festival. Vickers is doing five lecture-recitals for the Britten-Pears Foundation as part of the 2018 "Britten in America" exhibition at The Red House in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and he will emcee "A House in Middagh Street" on Peter Pears's birthday for the Aldeburgh Festival (June 22), recreating the Brooklyn environs of Gypsy Rose Lee, Paul and Jane Bowles, and W. H. Auden. Justin will travel to England four times during his sabbatical, will lecture there on Britten's "War Requiem," and will work with composer Colin Matthews on a new song cycle of translations of Chinese poetry that he is writing for the tenor as part of a larger Asian antiquity project.

## Upcoming Events and the University Calendar!

*All events scheduled through Peggy DeHaven in CE 225 will be listed on the University Calendar. Please check your events for accuracy and let Peggy know if corrections need to be made. If your event does not yet have a description included, send text to Peggy so that she may add it to your event announcement.*



## Upcoming Concerts, Important Dates

5/4	ctp Recital @ 7:30pm, KRH
5/5	String Project @ 11am, CPA
5/6	CSA Recital @ 2pm, KRH
5/12	CFA Commencement @ 7pm, Braden
7/2	Concerts on the Quad @ 7pm, CH
7/9	Concerts on the Quad @ 7pm, CH
7/16	Concerts on the Quad @ 7pm, CH
7/23	Concerts on the Quad @ 7pm, CH
7/27	Opera/Song at the Gallery @ 12:30pm, UG
7/28	Opera/Song at the Gallery @ 12:30pm, UG
7/30	Concerts on the Quad @ 7pm, CH
8/1	Opera/Song at the Gallery @ 12:30pm, UG
8/2	The Pirates of Penzance @ 7:30pm, CPA
8/3	The Tales of Hoffman @ 7:30pm, CPA
8/4	The Pirates of Penzance @ 7:30pm, CPA
8/5	The Tales of Hoffman @ 2pm, CPA
8/13	New Faculty Orientation @ all day, BSC
8/16	CFA Opening Meeting @ 9am, UG
8/16	SOM Opening Meeting @ 11am, KRH
8/19	CFA Picnic @ 5pm, CPA Lobby
8/27	Jury Recognition Recital @ 7:30pm, KRH

### 2018 -2019 Audition Dates

Saturday, 9/29/18	Friday, 2/1/19
Saturday, 12/1/18	Saturday, 2/2/19
Friday, 1/18/19	Saturday, 2/9/18
Saturday, 1/19/19	Saturday, 3/23/18